

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1477

UNCLAS TEHRAN 4378

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: SEDU, IR

SUBJ: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS RECEPTIVE TO OZAR HATORAH
PRESENTATION

REF: TEHRAN 3898

1. OZAR HATORAH DELEGATION MEMBERS NEUBERGER, SASSOM, AND MISHAAN MET WITH MIN ED OFFICIALS MAY 7. TEHRAN REPRESENTATIVE ISRAEL SZYF, LAWYER HAMID SABI, AND EMBOFF BOLSTER ACCOMPNAIED. VICE MINISTER KAZEM VADII WAS NOT AVAILABLE AT LAST MINUTE, BUT HIS ADVISERS BESHARAT AND NAGHIBZADEH RECIEVED GROUP.

2. MINED OFFICIALS ASSURED DELEGATION GOI COMMITTED TO PRINCIPLE THAT MINORITY GROUPS AND RELIGIOUS COULD MAINTAIN OWN SCHOOLS SO LONG AS THE MINISTRY'S CURRICULUM STANDARDS WERE MET. THEY EXPLAINED GOI'S NATIONALIZATION POLICY DID NOT MAKE ANY CHANGES IN EXISTING CURRICULA, ALTHOUGH IT ESTABLISHED AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE CHANGES ON COUNTRYWIDE BASIS AFTER DUE STUDY. THESE GENERAL POINTS MADE, THEY INQUIRED AS TO SPECIFIC PROBLEMS JEWISH SCHOOLS WERE EXPERIENCING.

3. LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE ISRAEL SZYF EXPLAINED THAT ONE SET OF PROBOEMS CENTERED AROUND GROWING AUTHORITY OF BOARDS OF TRUSTEES, WHO COULD CHANGE SCHOOL HOURS, PROCEDURES, AND CURRICULA IN WAY WHICH INHIBITED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. WITHOUT GUIDANCE FROM MINISTER SUCH CHANGES MIGHT BECOME MORE FREQUENT. NAGHIBZADEH WAS MORE FORTHCOMING ON THIS POINT THAN HIS COLLEAGUE. HE BELIEVE MINISTER WOULD AGREE TO ISSUE A DIRECTIVE PRESERVING THE STATUS QUO ON CURRICULUM ISSUE AND GENERALLY CONTINUING OZAR HATORAH SCHOOLS' OPERA-
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TIONS. BOTH CAUTIONED THAT KEY TO HANDLING BOARDS WOULD REMAIN ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR MEMBERS.

4. ON ISSUE OF HIRING AND SUPERVISION OF TEACHERS, OFFICIALS

UNDERSTOOD OZAR HATORAH'S DESIRE TO REASSURE TEACHERS ABOUT NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR. THEY THOUGHT ABOVE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT WOULD COVER THIS POINT AND PERMIT OZAR HATORAH TO CONTINUE TEACHERS' CONTRACTS. SUPERVISION MATTER WAS ONE THEY THOUGHT OUGHT TO BE HANDLED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS WITH BOARDS OF TRUSTEES, AS PRINCIPLE OF TEACHERS' RIGHT TO AVOID CLASSROOM VISITS BY ANY OTHER THAN SCHOOL AUTHORITIES WAS ALSO ENFORCED AGAINST MOSLEMS WHO WANTED TO CHECK ON THEIR RELIGIOUS CLASSES.

5. FINAL ISSUE WAS THAT OF SCHOOL DISTRICTING WHICH MIGHT KEEP JEWISH STUDENTS FROM ATTENDING OZAR HATORAH SCHOOLS. BESHARAT AND NAGHIBZADEH ASSURED DELEGATION THAT JEWISH STUDENTS WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND SUCH SCHOOLS REGARDLESS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THEY LIVED.

6. IN CONCLUSION, MINED OFFICIALS AGREED TO ACCEPT LETTER FROM OZAR HATORAH SUGGESTING GENERAL DIRECTIVE WHICH WOULD CONTINUE STATUS QUO FOR JEWISH SCHOOLS. LETTER SINCE SHOWN INFORMALLY TO BESHARAT BY SZYF AND WILL BE FORMALLY SENT MAY 12. LATER A DETAILED EXPOSITION OF PROBLEMS FACING JEWISH SCHOOLS WOULD BE SUBMITTED. DELEGATION LEFT MAY 8, PLEASED AT HEARING ITS CONCERNS HAD RECEIVED.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE INFORM SENATORS JAVITS, PERCY AND BEALL AND REPRESENTATIVE CLARENCE LONG OF ABOVE.
MIKLOS

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